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STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN FLOYD D. SPENCE UPON THE MARK-UP OF

H.R. 3142, THE UNIFORMED SERVICES MEDICARE SUBVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT

Today, the House National Security Committee reported the Uniformed Services Medicare Subvention Demonstration Project Act (H.R. 3142) by voice vote. Following committee action on the bill, Chairman Spence issued the following statement:

"Today's House National Security Committee approval of H.R. 3142 is the first step toward improving health care access for thousands of military retirees and their families. This bill establishes a Medicare subvention demonstration project to allow Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries to receive health care through the military health care system. Under the plan, these enrolled beneficiaries will be guaranteed access to treatment within a reasonable time frame, as opposed to the space-available care that they would receive today.

"By approving this bill, the committee is once again acting upon its commitment to keep the promises made to our military retirees. These men and women devoted their careers and risked their lives with the understanding that their medical needs would be met for life. Approving this plan is the least that we can do for them.

"It is my hope that the House will consider this bill in the near future. As thousands of Medicareeligible military beneficiaries will attest — our delay is detrimental to their health."

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